

AVIATION

AND

AIRCRAFT JOURNAL



The Original Amphibian: The First U. S. Navy Aircraft, a Curtiss "Triad" (July, 1911)

VOLUME X
Number 18

SPECIAL FEATURES

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THREE YEARS OF THE AIR MAIL

THE ULTIMATE AIRPLANE ENGINE
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AVIATION AND AIRCRAFT JOURNAL

MAY 2, 1921

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AVIATION AND AIRCRAFT JOURNAL

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No. 18

Encouraging Aeronautical Engineers

THE Navy competition in which the preliminary awards have just been made marks a departure from previous governmental practice in that every effort was made to encourage the "outside designer" not affiliated with any producing company to submit designs.

Great as is the need of encouragement and assistance to the firms building airplanes it is of no less importance that designers and engineers be encouraged and that some incentive or continuing encouragement work for those who for one reason or another have not kept direct association with the industry. It is not easy, as we have seen during the war, to impinge upon factors in time of need, but it is even more difficult to impinge upon competent designing staffs, and the aeronautical engineer must therefore be regarded as a potential national asset. A continuation of the policy of holding design competitions entirely severed from any question of the actual construction of airplanes by the designers will be among the most effective means of causing these men engaged in airplane design, but now into other fields, due to the decreasing number of engineers needed by the present industry, to keep up with aeronautical developments and continue their work along that line, at least as an avocation.

Three Years of Air Mail Service

WHEN in the spring of 1929 the Post Office Department opened the Washington-New York air mail route, doubts were expressed as to the practicability of operating such a service during the winter. These years have shown no case and today the Air Mail not only operates all the year round, but it reaches from the Atlantic to the Pacific, New York in winter 12 hours from San Francisco and even this time will be halved next summer when the Air Mail will run on a day-and-night schedule. It should not be forgotten that Otto Pohlert will always have the credit of this pioneer work.

The U. S. Air Mail Service represents an achievement of which all Americans should feel proud. It started as a pioneer and it has remained a pioneer in furnishing a daily practical demonstration of commercial aviation.

Lateral Control

IN spite of the great amount of aerodynamic data available and the numerous aerodynamic tests conducted under fairly simulate conditions, the subject of lateral control still remained an mystery and discussed in an empirical and non-aerodynamic manner. One step is used to have good lateral control because it was done by a skilled pilot. Another step is done as a suggestion on the lateral control because it was tried in an inferior pilot. The good control of a machine, like the Polikarpov, is attributed to the fact that it has a thick wing section, or that the control mechanism is efficient, or because the ailerons are placed over the center of gravity, or

one or other more or less satisfactory reasons. While various attention should be given to this subject in wind tunnel laboratories, it seems highly interesting to state at least the premises of the problem.

It is not sufficient to take a rough percentage of the wing area, place a rear spar in the position most suitable on the structural grounds, and call right there. We should consider first of all, whether the aileron has its weight concentrated laterally, so the lateral moment of inertia will have an important bearing on the subject. Next we must ask whether the aspect ratio is high or low. With a high aspect ratio the aileron arms are raised larger, but the weight of the wing structure is proportionately more spread out, and the damping moment of the wings is therefore greater. We must consider whether the chord of the aileron is large or small since the moment about the hinge of the aileron will depend on this.

Then we must consider whether it is a thick or a thin wing that is under consideration, and determine whether the same type of aileron is suitable for both thick and thin wing sections.

We must also deal with the correct length of the aileron and whether it is best to make a short aileron with a large chord or a long aileron with a small chord. What is the efficiency of the aileron control at low angles of incidence? Does the controlling moment fall off an intensity at high angles of incidence? What is the paving moment introduced by the aileron for a given rolling moment? Is there any empirical data available for a single similar type of machine? Is there any aerodynamic data bearing on the subject? What is the maximum moment of the side laterally and what are the leverages involved? What is the extent of the controllability required?

It will be seen from this that the apparently simple problem of proportion in the aileron is in reality an exceptionally complex one.

New Aircraft Material

ANEW material which seems to have decided possibilities for aircraft construction has just appeared on the market. It is manufactured by combining thin sheet metal faces with a relatively thick core of light weight material.

The construction is certainly ingenious and valuable. There may be some practical difficulties in applying the new material to aircraft construction, but it is readily conceivable that there would be a number of possible uses.

Imagine, for instance, a wing spar built up of this material. All the difficulties involved in securing metal flanges of the right shape, with the special dies and tools required, would disappear. At the same time, the load strength of the spar would be greatly increased as compared to a metal spar. The sheet metal would form a smooth, durable surface, and would reduce deterioration and fire hazard. For struts and longerons similar considerations would apply.

Aviation Report of President to Congress

Views of Minority of Special Committee Overruled in Report to President

What appears to be a most significant obstacle to the working out of a broad aviation policy for the United States was revealed last week following the submission to President Harding by Dr. C. D. Walcott of the "majority's" views of a special subcommittee of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

The President requested Dr. Walcott, as chairman of the National Advisory Committee, to submit a subcommittee to report on the needs of aviation. The confidants of the "minority" recommend the present bureaucratic system and recommend the creation of an additional bureau—a Bureau of Aeronautics in the Department of Commerce.

It is difficult to comprehend how in a time like this when the country needs not only dirigible air defense but an air policy, the so-called body like the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics should not be given the widest possible latitude to give the President the views of the experience and advice which he might, from the majority as well as the minority members of the committee. This minority, consisting of Glenn L. Martin, who ranks with the Wrights and Curtis as one of the men the world is indebted to for pioneer work in aviation, Col. Walter G. Kohler, whose record as a pilot and Chief of All Air Service Training personnel is unequalled, Frank C. Tamm, who was the Wrights' first manager of the Wright Co. and has been most ready to voice views, and Col. Sidney D. Waldron, who was one of the leading officers of the Air Service during the war, could not represent better the well informed opinion of aeronautical experts.

They proposed the subcommittee to consider the broader policies of a Department of the Air, a United Air Service or an Independent Air Force before going to the President with recommendations calculated to shape our destiny in the air.



THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS

Photograph taken at the White House after interview with the President, April 9, 1921. The occasion being the transmission of Congress of a special report of the committee regarding a national aviation policy.

Front row, left to right: Mr. J. P. Vincent, Assistant Secretary, Dept. of State; Mr. Charles Wright, Director, Bureau of Navigation, Dept. of State; Mr. John Hopkins Chapman, Secretary, Dept. of War; Mr. Charles E. Parsons, Chief of Engineers, Dept. of War; Mr. Harry H. Miller, Director, Bureau of Navigation, Dept. of Navy; Mr. Frank C. Tamm, Manager, Wright Co.; Mr. Frank E. Tamm, Director, Bureau of Navigation, Dept. of Navy; Mr. Charles E. Parsons, Chief of Engineers, Dept. of War; Mr. Charles E. Parsons, Chief of Engineers, Dept. of Navy; Mr. W. A. Wadsworth, Director of Naval Aviation; Professor Charles E. Munn, Director of the Wright Institute; Dr. W. A. Wadsworth, Superintendent, University of Illinois.

May 2, 1921

AVIATION

II The Minority Report

Major W. G. Kohler, F. H. Russell, Glenn L. Martin, and Sidney Waldron of the subcommittee are of the opinion that the President's letter gave authority to a Department of the Air, a United Air Service or an Independent Air Force to a committee to expedite the preparation of the service of military and commercial aviation. The majority overruled them, however, and consequently the report contains no reference to that matter.

These members therefore urge that the President direct the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics to investigate, with a view to passing definite recommendations, as to the relative merits of the three alternatives.

- a. The situation as it will exist under the plan proposed in this report in which aeronautics will be divided among the Departments of War, Navy, Commerce and Post Office.
- b. A Department of the Air.
- c. A United Air Service.
- d. An Independent Air Force.

April 8, 1921.

Dr. CHARLES D. WALCOTT, Chairman

We the undersigned request that the above be transmitted in this report to the President in answer to his letter of April 9, 1921.

W. G. KOHLER
Major, Air Service

Sidney D. WALDRON

Dear Doctor Walcott,
As is desired, I will immediately organize a subcommittee of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, with representatives from the War, Navy, Post Office and Commerce Departments, and (try to) get that the subcommittee acts up vigorously and fully the question of Federal regulation of air navigation, air routes to cover the whole United States, and cooperation, among the various departments of the Government concerned with aviation, reporting:
a. What can and should be done without further legislative action.
b. What legislation action and appropriations are necessary to carry into effect the recommendations of the subcommittee.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) WALTER G. KOHLER

Sidney D. WALDRON

IV

Dr. Charles D. Walcott was sent the following telegram: "Minority Report of subcommittee on aviation, organized by President's letter to Congress. Request you today state whether fair in minority agreed or agreed to your report and if there majority report is being sent to Congress by President." Dr. Walcott replied as follows:

"The report as sent to the President was adopted without dissenting vote. There was no minority report but after the committee adjourned one member reported in me that he and three other members of the committee were of the opinion that the President's letter justified the recommendation by the committee to the question of whether a department of the air, a unified air service or an independent air force should be recommended. This matter has been discussed and in the opinion of the special committee the President's letter did not make it desirable or preferable to embark on such a discussion. However, all these facts were transmitted to the President."

CHARLES D. WALCOTT

V

The following request was sent to President Harding: "Report on transmitted Congress does not contain minority report of National Advisory Committee subcommittee. Understand these experienced aeronautical experts differ radically and did not sign Walcott Report. Recent Secretary was for publication whether or not this minority report is to be transmitted to you. Dr. Christian, Jr., Secretary to the President, replied as follows:

"I am advised by the Assistant Secretary of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics that the subcommittee report, copy of which has been sent you, was adopted without dissenting vote."

Although Dr. Walcott states that it was not "desirable or permissible to embark in a discussion of governmental organization in a view to expedite the report of the National Advisory Committee and not the part of the Committee responsible in this issue with the following comment: "Photograph taken at the White House after interview with the President, April 21, 1921, the occasion being the aeronautical meeting of the entire Committee, following close upon the approval by the President and transmission to Congress of a special report of the Committee **outlining a new national aviation policy.**"

It is significant that Col. R. D. Waldron, Major W. G. Kohler, Glenn L. Martin and F. H. Russell, the signers of the minority report, were not invited to this meeting with the President.

The New York Sun which is usually regarded as an authoritative paper sums up the whole unfortunate matter in the following Washington dispatch:

"Another spherical in aeronautics writhes and without the United States Government is under way here as a result of recommendations made to the President by Dr. Charles D. Walcott, chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Dr. Walcott's report caused the President to recommend in his message to Congress what some flying men term a 'most revolutionary air programme.'"

The flying men are particularly interested in Dr. Walcott for what they term an attempt to suppress the recommendations for a national flying policy made by a minority of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

When the President made his spherical recommendations, flying men were astounded, they said, to find that he had recommended a policy that they believed was in conflict with the recommendations of the aeronautics committee and that the minority report of the committee had been forwarded to the President. This was some time later when the President sent the recommendations to Congress to be printed as a public document, for the printed document, which is No. 13, contains only the majority views.

Dr. Walcott denied today to *The Sun* correspondent that there had been any attempt to suppress the views of the minority of his committee in regard to aeronautics recommendations.

The Report of the Committee follows. It is asserted that the committee was not asked to do its duty. The draft committee report was prepared before the final draft and even this draft was not served to *by all the members of the subcommittee*. It is significant to note that the date on the Report is April 9 while the date of the minority report is April 8.

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS.

Dealing with Federal Regulation of Air Navigation; Air Routes to Cover the Whole United States; Air Routes Among the Government Departments Submitted to THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, April 9, 1921.

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with your letter of April 1, 1921, addressed to Dr. Charles D. Walcott, Chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, the Committee organized a special Subcommittee on Federal Regulation of Air Navigation, Dr. W. G. Kohler, U. S. A., Major W. G. Kohler, U. S. A.,

Major Department: Major General D. W. Taylor, U. S. A., Commander Kenneth Whiting, U. S. N. C., Post Office Department: E. C. Zoll, C. I. Stanton; Department of Commerce: Dr. S. W. Stratton, E. T. Chamberlain.

Representatives from Civil Life: Sidney Waldron, F. H. Russell, Glenn L. Martin;

Dr. Charles D. Walcott, Chairman; Mr. J. F. Victory, Senator.

This subcommittee has taken up, as you desired, the question of Federal regulation of air navigation, air routes to cover the whole United States, and cooperation among the various departments of the Government concerned with aviation. And, in addition, the two questions specified in your letter:

- "What can and should be done without further legislative action;
- "What legislative action and appropriations are necessary to carry into effect the recommendations of the subcommittee;

The report of the subcommittee is as follows:

The following general recommendations on a national aviation policy are recommended:

1. Aviation is inseparable from the National Defense. It is necessary to the success of both the Army and the Navy. Each should have complete control of the character and operation of its own air service.
2. Aviation as a comparatively new science capable of rapid development and rapid development of the art of vital importance, in time of peace to make the greatest possible progress in the science itself. Everything should be done to stimulate invention and to encourage the practical use of aircraft of all kinds and of all the experience and appliances necessary or incidental thereto.
3. It is considered imperative as time of peace to maintain a large armed air force, but it is considered imperative that we maintain a sufficient number of available personnel, including organized reserves, and of adequate equipment of the most modern type as a foundation upon which to build at the outbreak of war.
4. A National Aviation Committee for Aviation as a foundation upon which to build the national aviation and maintained in harmony with the military and naval aviation policies and programs. The development of aviation as a whole will be made with the resources of expense to the Government through the adoption of a wise and constructive policy for the application of congressional aviation.
5. The A. A. M. Bill should be an important initial step in the development of every national aviation. It must be maintained and extended as rapidly as possible, and only to carry the work but to become a potential war reserve.

6. It is a pressing duty of the Federal Government to regulate air navigation, otherwise independent and overlapping air routes will be created, which will be created and hamper the development of aviation. For this purpose a Bureau of Aviation should be established in the Department of Commerce, by legislation similar to the Kahn Bill as modified (see draft of bill taken from Sixth Annual Report of the National Advisory Committee for Aviation, Appendix A).

7. Approval of the bill to expand, to management and development of national air routes, should be carried out by the Department of Commerce.

8. The Army Air Service should be continued as an independent and distinct branch of the Army. Its existing organization should be used in cooperation with the Navy, Post Office, and other governmental agencies in the development of a system of continental airways and in cooperation with the states and municipalities in the establishment of local airfields, landing fields, and other necessary facilities.

9. The Naval Air Service and the control of naval aviation in cooperation should be centralized on a Bureau of Aviation on the Navy Department.

10. The national program of scientific research in aviation as now proposed by the National Advisory Committee for Aviation established by the Act of 1928, and broad cognizance of policy regarding the operation of the activities of all governmental agencies concerned with aviation should be referred to that committee for consideration and recommendation.

11. The National Advisory Committee for Aviation should have authority to recommend to the heads of the departments concerned on questions of policy regarding the development of aviation, and to receive

need to departmental heads desirable understandings or developments in the field of aviation. To provide for the more effective discharge of these functions, the chief of the Air Mail Service of the Post Office Department, or the Department of Commerce, should be members of the committee.

32. Under this policy, there would be

An Army Air Service under the Secretary of War; A Naval Air Service under the Secretary of the Navy, with the activities concentrated in a Bureau of Aviation in the Navy Department;

An Air Mail Service under the Secretary General, A Bureau of Aviation for the regulation of air navigation, under the Secretary of Commerce, and for carrying out such policies as may be adopted for the management and up-keeping of civil and commercial aviation.

A National Aviation Committee for Aviation for the continuous promotion of scientific research in aviation, and, in an advocacy capacity, the maintenance of all international activities of the department.

Reference specifically to the detailed questions under the following summary:

1. Federal Regulation of Air Navigation.
2. Air Routes to Cover the Whole United States.
3. Cooperation among the Various Departments of the Government Concerned with Aviation;

the committee reports in fullness.

1. FEDERAL REGULATION OF AIR NAVIGATION

(a) Federal regulation of air navigation cannot be accomplished under existing laws. Stripping and other illegal use of aircraft can be prevented in a manner.

(b) It is recommended that a Bureau of Aviation be established in the Department of Commerce (substantially as the Bureau of the Navy Bill) to be charged for the regulation of air navigation and for carrying out such policies as may be adopted for the managing and up-keeping of civil and commercial aviation and that an estimate of \$250,000 be made available for the first year 1932.

2. AIR ROUTES TO COVER THE WHOLE UNITED STATES

(a) The Post Office Department is specifically authorized to establish air routes between New York and San Francisco. There is no question as to whether existing laws permit a route of this character.

The Army has no specific authority of law to establish air routes, but has chartered several minor airways as follows:

1. One route from Augusta, Maine, to Camp Lewis, Washington.
2. One from Washington, D. C., to San Francisco, California.
3. One from Savannah, Georgia, to San Diego, California.
4. One from Atlanta, Atlanta, to Miami, Florida.
5. One from Camp Lewis, Washington, to San Diego, California.
6. One from LaFollette, Tennessee, to Fargo, North Dakota.
7. One from Chicago, Illinois, to Rapid City, South Dakota.

(Appendix C shows these routes.)

(b) In order to stimulate the Army to carry forward the program of routes within the whole United States, it is recommended that an appropriation of \$2,600,000 be made available during a period of two years.

Attention is drawn to "Emergency Aerological Service and Estimate of Costs," Appendix C. It is recommended that such portion of the appropriations asked for as are necessary be given aerological service on the approximately 4,000 miles of air routes within the continental United States. The funds to cover additional air routes to cover the whole United States should be made available as fast as the need is indicated by the Army and the Post Office Department.

It is recommended that legislation be enacted which will definitely authorize the Post Office Department to establish air mail routes between Chicago, Minneapolis, and St. Paul and between Chicago and St. Louis, and such other air and

roads as may be determined by the Postmaster General as the speed of the service, in the rail advantage, whenever practicable, of existing or contemplated airways.

3. COOPERATION AMONG THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT CONCERNED WITH AVIATION

(a) Cooperation among the air services of the Army, Navy and Post Office with the Coast and Geodetic Survey, Bureau of Fisheries, Coast Guard, Weather Bureau, Geological Survey, and Forest Patent Service, is being carried on with excellent results, as shown in Appendix D.

It is recommended that the President direct the National Advisory Committee for Aviation to appoint a subcommittee composed of representatives of the War, Navy, Post Office, and Commerce Departments, and two civilians representing the aircraft industry who shall survey the engineering and production facilities of the aircraft industry and shall recommend a policy calculated to sustain and develop the industry to serve the needs of the Government.

It is recommended that the President direct the Postmaster General to appoint a subcommittee composed of representatives of the War, Navy, Post Office, and Commerce Departments, and two civilians representing the aircraft industry who shall survey the engineering and production facilities of the aircraft industry and shall recommend a policy calculated to sustain and develop the industry to serve the needs of the Government.

In making up this report, permit me to emphasize the immediate need of legislation to provide for it.

(b) A Naval Air Service under the Secretary of the Navy, with the activities concentrated in a Bureau of Aviation in the Navy Department.

(c) A Bureau of Aviation under the Secretary of Commerce for the regulation of air navigation and the convergence and up-keeping of civil and commercial aviation.

(d) The development of a system of national continental air routes to cover the whole United States and to include the meteorological service activities.

(e) The reorganization of the Air Mail Service and the chief of the Air Mail Bureau of the Department of Commerce should be charged with the responsibility of the Bureau of Aviation members of the National Advisory Committee for Aviation.

Respectfully submitted,

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AVIATION
(Signed) C. D. WADDELL
Chairman.

The President,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

* Appendix C is the modified Table 102 as shown in Page 1314 of the 1929 Army Appropriations Act, Senate Army Committee for Aviation, and is not reproduced here.

APPENDIX D*

CONTINENTAL AIRWAYS AND AIRPORTS COMMITTEE

By Air Service of the Army

Seven important main airways have been charted, and by adding Government airfields already existing, these airways make the air net complete for the United States.

One route from the State of Maine to the State of Washington covers the following stations:

Portland, Maine—Private.

Portland, N. Y.—Government, not A. S.

Binghamton, N. Y.—Municipal.

Buffalo, N. Y.—Private.

Cleveland, Ohio—Private.

Detroit, Mich.—Air Service.

Evans, Ohio—Municipal.

Chicago, Illinois—Government, not A. S.

St. Paul, Minn.—Government.

St. Paul, N. Dak.—Municipal.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Municipal.

Spokane, Wash.—Private.

Calgary, Alberta, Canada—Municipal.

Montreal, Quebec, Canada—Municipal.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada—Municipal.

Quebec, Quebec, Canada—Municipal.

Montreal, Quebec, Canada—Municipal.

represented in the membership of the various subcommittees, the proposed and active research and experimental development of each governmental department is apportioned to the aeronautics, thus preventing unnecessary duplication. The aeronautics committee, which is the only committee of the commission and which permits the industry and the various departments to familiarize themselves with the research that is in progress.

Navy and Department of Commerce

(a) **Geodetic Survey.** The Air Service of the Navy is now engaged in mapping the Mississippi Delta for the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and has completed the mapping of sections in South Carolina for the same service.

(b) **The Bureau of Fisheries.** The Navy has demonstrated to the Bureau of Fisheries the practicability of locating schools of fish and reporting these locations to fisheries. This service has been extended to the point where it was shown that it would be practicable to maintain an airship service for this purpose.

Navy and Treasury Department

(a) **Coast Guard.** The Navy Air Service has cooperated with the Coast Guard in the training of pilots and the transfer of equipment to this organization.

Navy and Department of Agriculture

(a) **Weather Bureau.** The Weather Bureau has cooperated to the extent of its facilities in providing meteorological information to the Navy. A meteorological interdepartmental committee has been organized to coordinate the needs and services of all of the governmental departments operating airships.

War Department and Department of Agriculture

(a) **Forest Service.** An aerial survey is being made of the forest areas of the State of Washington where over 5,000,000,000 board feet of timber has been destroyed. Forest Fire Patrol will be continued and will require approximately 1,000,000 miles of flying per year.

(b) **Bureau of Farm Management.** Photographs have been made of agricultural districts in order to obtain photographs by means of which farm management and development may be improved.

(c) **Bureau of Entomology.** Various areas have been photographed for the Bureau of Entomology and experiments are being made for the purpose of locating rest spots in the upper air currents.

(d) **Woolen Bureau.** The Air Service has cooperated with the Woolen Bureau in various experiments, especially in connection with obtaining meteorological information.

War Department and Treasury Department

Aerial photographs of various areas are being made for the use of the United States Public Health Service.

War Department and Department of the Interior

Geodetic Survey. Geodetic surveys are being made of various areas such as the Adirondack region, the Hudson River, New York Harbor, 2700 square miles in North Carolina, over 4000 square miles in the county of Los Angeles, and many other areas totaling some 20,000 square miles. For the same department the Air Service is cooperating with the Director of National Parks and the Chief of the Geological Service.

War Department and Department of Commerce

Coast and Geodetic Survey. Areas near the head of the Chesapeake Bay, Atlantic City and Florida Keys are being photographed from the air, also the coast of New Jersey, from Cape May to Sandy Hook. By means of aerial photographs revision of the charts of the James River from Hampton Roads to Richmond and the coast lines of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida are being accomplished. Aerial photographs of various districts, great buildings, rivers, and islands are being taken whenever feasible, however available. Among the important examples of the type of work may be quoted a series of aerial views of the Adirondack region, and the effects

represented in the membership of the various subcommittees, the proposed and active research and experimental development of each governmental department is apportioned to the aeronautics, thus preventing unnecessary duplication. The aeronautics committee, which is the only committee of the commission and which permits the industry and the various departments to familiarize themselves with the research that is in progress.

APPENDIX E COOPERATION OF WAR AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENTS AND OPERATING

COT OF FOREST FIRE PATROL

These figures do not include the overhead, such as cost of initial equipment of airships or personal expenses and salaries of operating personnel, which are covered in the specific appropriation for that purpose.

(a) **Year 1931.** Progress covering California and Oregon alone.

Estimate of actual money expended

(a) Maintenance of airships and their spare parts, 57 planes at \$250 per plane	\$ 1,460,000
(b) Maintenance of engines and their spare parts, 59 engines at \$200 each	10,800,000
(c) Fuel and oil, based on 25 gallons per hour at \$1.25 per gallon, and 175 gallons of oil at \$1.00 per gallon, gasoline	35,600.46
Oil	500,000
	\$50,600.46

(B) Estimate for fiscal year 1932. Extended forest fire patrol.

(This program will not be carried out due to lack of—

(a) Appropriations
(b) Interactions from Forest Staff adopting first alternative (that is, a reduction) of the three alternatives set forth. This would allow the Forest Fire Patrol to include Washington, Idaho, Montana and a small portion of Wyoming, a total of five squadrons, 160 officers and 600 enlisted men.)

Estimated Cost

(a) Maintenance of airships and their spare parts	\$ 54,250,000
(b) Maintenance of engines and their spare parts	47,200,000
(c) Cost of fuel and lubricants	215,372.40
	Total \$517,352.80

Total. \$517,352.80
Notes—This does not include the appropriation of \$600,000 obtained by the Department of Agriculture for cooperation with the Air Service and forest fire protection and expanded under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture and its officers.

Dutch Air Line Starts Operation

On Apr. 16 the air mail and passenger service between London and Rotterdam, with Memphis connections to Northern Germany and Scandinavia, reopened. The Royal British Air Transport Co., better known as the R.B.A.T. from the initials of its Dutch name, carried out these services last year with standard British aircraft. They have now, however, purchased a fleet of modern commercial aircraft, as it was impossible to conduct passenger service with the converted war machines, which carried insufficient loads to pay their way and did not provide sufficient comfort. The machines now used are the new Fokker F.111 type monoplanes, which have 220 hp. B.M.W. or 240 hp. Hispano-Suiza engines and carry in a comfortable cabin five passengers, with their baggage, at a speed of 110 m.p.h.

It is stated that the Dutch company intends to extend the services from London to Southampton, Plymouth and Liverpool in order to make passengers arriving from America to immediately continue their journey to Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam, Berlin or Copenhagen by air. An office may be opened in New York so that reservations may be made in advance.

Three Years of Air Mail Service

The United States Air Mail Service will complete its third year of flying on May 15, 1932, with a total of 2,250,000 miles of flying to its credit. In this period the Air Mail Service will have carried over 60,000,000 letters, or an average of approximately 30,000,000 lbs of mail, and served 97 per cent of its scheduled mileage, based on its performance up to March 15, 1932.

A Comparison of Performances

This work has not been accomplished without the usual number associated with aviation, but the accompanying table shows that the United States Air Mail Service has a better safety record than commercial aviation in Great Britain or in Canada. This record shows one fatality in the Air Mail service for each 50,000 miles flown, against one fatality for each 50,000 miles flown in Great Britain, and one fatality for each 75,000 miles flown in Canada.

The Air Mail record covers a period of 36 months, the British record covers 29 months, and the Canadian record for a period of 9 months. The work of the Air Mail Service, except for a small amount of test flying, consists entirely of cross-country flying over great distances, whereas the British and Canadian air enterprises operate over very short distances. The Air Mail Service operates the longest service in the world, the distance between New York and San Francisco being 2000 miles, with the longest British airway, from London to Paris, with only 260 miles long. No service is operated on schedule in Canada.

The table of comparative performances of the United States Air Mail Service and of both Canadian civil flying follows:—

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF PERFORMANCE OF THE UNITED STATES AIR MAIL AND OF BRITISH AND CANADIAN CIVIL AIRLINES

Period

1929-1931 (36 months)

1930-1931 (29 months)

1931-1932 (9 months)

1932-1933 (1 month)

1933-1934 (1 month)

1934-1935 (1 month)

1935-1936 (1 month)

1936-1937 (1 month)

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2018-2019 (1 month)

2019-2020 (1 month)

2020-2021 (1 month)

2021-2022 (1 month)

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2096-2097 (1 month)

2097-2098 (1 month)

2098-2099 (1 month)

2099-2100 (1 month)

2100-2101 (1 month)

2101-2102 (1 month)

2102-2103 (1 month)

A Sensation in Commercial Aeronautics!

WHAT HAPPENED!

WHEN THIS FULL PAGE ADVERTISEMENT WAS PUBLISHED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES IT CREATED A SENSATION

Pilots, managers of amusement resorts, yacht clubs, resort hotels, pulp and paper companies and aerial sight-seeing and passenger-carrying companies were quick to realize what an opportunity this was to purchase Aeromarine Navy six-passenger flying boats at less than one third of their original cost.

In the Spring, when the supply of these boats is exhausted, the far-sighted men who order now will be able to double their money, for the simple reason that the boats can not be duplicated for less than \$20,000. each, and it is already apparent that the supply WILL be exhausted.

One of these boats earned for its owner last season upwards of \$1,000. per week.

The possibilities for next season are much greater, because the public now realizes that flying boats are not only absolutely safe, but the most delightful mode of travel.

The Aeromarine Company has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in successfully operating flying boats for commercial purposes. All of this valuable experience is at the disposal of companies operating Aeromarine flying boats. The supply of boats is limited. Send for booklet and further information to-day.

*Aeromarine-HS-2-L Flying Boat (U.S. Government) F. O. B. Naval Stores, Philadelphia, New York, Passaic and San Diego
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*Aeromarine-HS-2-L Six-Seat, Open Cockpit Flying Boat, Model 85.
Price - \$6,500.00 immediate delivery*

*Aeromarine-HS-2-L Six-Seat, Enclosed Cabin Limousine De Luxe
Price - \$9,000.00 immediate delivery*

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AND FLYING BOATS

Aeromarine Engineering & Sales Co., Inc.

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4505 or 6147

Aeromarine Sales Service Includes the Securing of Competition Plan Which Makes It Possible to Pay for These Boats, and Mechanics. We Also Have an Easy Payment of Their Earnings. Wire - Write - Phone.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1927

Government Takes Big Step to Encourage Aviation

Allows the Sale of the Famous Navy Coast Patrol HS2 Boats Valued at \$18,480 Each for \$6,160 per Boat

Details of the Plan, of Special Interest to Automotive Men, which Will Make the United States at the Head of the World in Commercial Aviation



Aeromarine

FLYING LIMOUSINES
AND FLYING BOATS

NEW YORK CITY

It is understood that these figures are not intended to represent all storage, since different types of batteries vary so greatly. But with some such concrete example as this before us, it will be easy to reach conclusion as to the weight limitations of the power plant.

Let us assume that the complete plane loaded weighs 5,000 lb. Assuming that total weight we can then assume that the power plant will weight 10 per cent of 5,000 lb, or 500 lb. Now, as previously has been stated, the steam engine should develop one horse power for every 14 lb. of weight and this would give us a requirement of 35.7 hp. for the 5,000 lb. plane. Since a total weight of 1,450 lb. is available for the power plant, it is possible to have a design which will come in 4.8 per cent of the plane's weight for total horse power developed. 21 years, however, be remembered that this weight will not include all the engine accessories such as the radiator, piping, pump, water, etc.

Of course this does not mean that 4.8 is of horse power is the absolute maximum built in the weight of the power plant. We could change the distribution of weight if we wanted to by a 0.0005 lb. per plane with no load but the pilot and for very short distances and obtain a table something like this:

Structural weight	3,200	37 per cent
Power plant	500	6.25 per cent
Useful load	1,300	16.67 per cent
Fuel supply	100	1.25 per cent
Total	5,000	100 per cent

With this distribution of weights, the power plant would weigh 3,200 lb. and as we have shown that 200 lb. is required this would mean that the power plant could weight 6.25 per horsepower. A glance at this design would be able to perceive very much reduced since it would be capable of carrying only one man and fuel for only about an hour's flight. Accordingly, we see that a plane which weighs more than 4.8 lb. per horsepower would be able to fly at a weight of 1.6 lb. as is desirable to reduce the weight of the plant to a minimum in order to provide for a high percentage of useful load.

The Question of Fuel Consumption

The next question to consider is that of fuel consumption. The most economical aircraft engine today uses about 47 lb. of gasoline per hour for 100 per cent of its rated power output at low altitudes. At high altitudes and with a light load, the specific fuel consumption is likely to be higher. For all present purposes, we can assume a figure of 5 lb. per horsepower per hour, which means that a 400 lb. eng. would consume 200 lb. of gasoline on hours under the conditions given.

We are now ready to consider the possibilities of various types of power plant for airplane use.

At present the internal combustion engine of the four cylinder is practically the only engine for airplane service. The weight of the engine alone, that is with the cooling system of it is of the water cooled type, varies from about 1.5 lb. to 3.5 lb. per horsepower according to the arrangement, the number of cylinders, etc.

The Steam Engine

As soon as one is discussing possible improvements, there must first be considered the non-expanding steam engine. It is probable that a steam engine could be built that would weigh considerably less per horsepower developed than the internal combustion engine does, if airplane engine pressures and dimensions were applied to a steam engine design. The chief reason for this is that the four cylinder engine must be built to withstand a pressure of 1,000 lb. per square inch of the cylinder. On the other hand, the steam engine may be as high as 150 lb. per sq. in., there is only one power stroke in four strokes of the engine.

On the other hand, in a steam engine, the lower temperatures at which the work is done makes it possible to use all the strokes for working strokes, so that a double action steam cylinder will give four times as many strokes to every

revolution as does the conventional four cycle internal combustion cylinder. Then again, the steam pressure may be carried in very high values, well over 400 lb. per sq. in., which would permit of a much greater pressure on the piston at above 100 lb. per sq. in., allowing for an increased expansion ratio for the steam.

To this it is immediately true that a steam engine

could be built in fairly large units to weigh not more than 1.5 lb. per horsepower as against the present best practice of 1.8 lb. maximum efficiency per horsepower in the internal combustion engine.

The steam engine itself, however, is only one way of the steam power plant; there are also the condensers, the boiler, the piping, the fittings, etc. The total weight of the largest of these units and any power plant design would be practically prohibitive from the point of view of weight. Certain types of steam boilers, such as have been used in steam launches, could probably be developed so as not to have excessive weight. It is interesting to note in this connection that the Illinois Marine in 1918 built a steam-driven seaplane which was never flown, which was built of sheet steel and which was to have developed 100 hp. for a total weight of 360 lb. giving the rather low figure of 4.4 lb. per horsepower.

However, the whole question of the use of the steam engine is conditioned upon the matter of fuel consumption, and however promising the invention seems to be in regard to the engine itself, the weight of fuel necessary is prohibitive. The largest internal combustion engine gives about 15 per cent of the net horsepower per hour, today having an overall heat and efficiency not exceeding 35 per cent of the total thermal energy of the fuel. In contrast to this, the present day aircraft internal combustion engine of even moderate size are capable of a thermal efficiency above 25 per cent.

Letting all other requirements aside, this represents a fuel saving which would be far greater than the weight of fuel, if used alone, to generate power for a steam engine or turbine, and it will only save us airplane three-fifths of the distance that the same weight of fuel will drive the plane equipped with an internal combustion engine.

Even this statement does not do justice to the internal combustion engine. Thermal efficiencies of well over 30 per cent have been obtained in the triple expansion, while the Diesel engine which has not yet been adopted in airplane construction, gives thermal efficiencies approaching 30 per cent, so that we have at least twice that of the steam engine. It is obvious that as we weight well off the loadings that the steam engine is far more useful of having to carry two or three times as much as is necessary for a gasoline engine.

This, however, for it must be admitted that the steam engine offers certain difficulties which would make it difficult to be highly desirable. In the first place, it will be greatly conceded that the steam engine is less liable to sudden failure than the gasoline engine. This is in general to the fundamental principles involved, although it is safe to say that with sufficient consideration as to the details of its design, the gasoline engine could readily be built thoroughly reliable.

In the second place, a steam engine can successfully meet the demands of an overload by simply reducing the boiler pressure as increasing the percentage of valve lift off.

In the third place, the steam engine starts itself and can be easily reversed, which would be useful on an airplane as it would be built in order to reduce the chances that the plane will roll over the wheels should the ground.

Finally, it is necessary to find a power better pressure independent of stroke, while a gasoline engine requires its base level power when it is taken up 10,000 ft. Of course we do not know how much the decreased safety of the engine at 35,000 ft. would add to the difficulty in keeping up stage, but it is probable that this could be remedied by means of supercharger which would permit us to maintain constant power at high altitudes with a gasoline engine.

The Steam Turbine

The steam turbine needs little additional comment. As with the reciprocating engine, possibilities of extremely light construction have never been completely explored and there is every reason to believe that the turbine also could be made

considerably lighter than an internal combustion engine of the same power. But with the turbine we will the reciprocating engine, the weight of the boiler and the increased fuel necessary are considerations factors preventing their feasible use for aircraft purposes. The turbine, however, has the advantage that a reduction in speed would have to be applied to reduce the speed, which might be 20,000 or 30,000 rpm in, down to the 1,200 or so revolutions demanded by the airplane propeller. The low starting torque and the impossibility of governing the turbine also make it less attractive for aircraft work than is a reciprocating engine.

Electrical Propulsion

There has been some talk of using electricity in airplanes. In discussing this, it should first be thoroughly understood that at the present state of the development of electricity, the electric motor is not a "prime mover" in the ordinary sense. In other words, electricity has not yet been commercially produced direct from the combustion of fuel. While mounted properly, however, it would make their operating expense in airplane flight considerably more than the cost of the fuel and the weight of the motor, battery, and all the other materials which are consumed or consumed when the cell is operating.

The only possibility for battery driven airplanes thus is in secondary batteries, such as the common lead storage battery. The weight of such an installation, as far as we can judge from present day battery performance, would be absolutely prohibitive. An all weight value of 40 lb. per horsepower-hour output would be considered good for present day storage batteries.

The most logical source of power is the direct conversion of the hand propeller being driven by an electric motor. Even this hand propeller is sufficient to show that an electrically propelled airplane is absolutely out of the question.

There has also been talk recently of electric-driven airplanes similar in principle to the electric driven ships which are the latest development in the U. S. Navy. It has been proposed to use an all or semi internal combustion engine, directly connected to electric generators, from which the current would pass to motors driving propellers either direct or through gears.

In the face of it and in the light of the present state of electric engineering, that proposal must be considered highly questionable. As in the case with the steam engine, airplane engineers has never entered as an important consideration in the design of the engine or generator. It is possible that by using suitable materials, such as aluminum, magnesium, copper and by painstaking design, electric units could be built very much lighter than those that are now. However, it would be a serious undertaking today to build an electric motor or generator weighing less than 8 lb. per horsepower. This would mean that in addition to the weight of the internal combustion engine, which may be taken as 20 lb. per horsepower, we would have the weight of the generator, 8 lb. per horsepower and an electric motor weighing another 5 lb. per horsepower. The world being the extra weight of the entire power plant up to 12.5 lb. per horsepower, which we have already seen would be prohibitive, or at least extremely unattractive for airplane use.

There has also been some talk of changes by which the present day cylinder engine could be operated on two cycles, that is, with power applied on two strokes of the cylinder. This is, of course, to reduce the weight of the engine. Thus if it could be done, would of course prevent a great reduction in the weight of the internal combustion engine and would considerably increase the efficiency of the airplane in respect to its useful load. Excessive expansions have been made along this line and seem to have proved that the plan is not feasible. The nonexpanding four cylinder engines are about as high as the present day engines in weight, and are not likely to be of any great advantage, and there is no method in sight which would permit us to handle the double production of heat that would come in a two-cycle system. So it can be said that at least there is no immediate promise of success with any nonexpanding change in the internal combustion engine.

Conclusions

We have now discussed the pros and cons of all conventional types of motor power plants. It has been shown that even

today, when both weight of power plant and weight of fuel necessary for any but the shortest of flights are taken into consideration, the internal combustion engine is superior to anything that can be hoped from the other types.

In conclusion, the author would like to add that after viewing the remarkable strides made by the internal combustion engine in aircraft work during the past decade, that it would be folly to spend much time in speculating as to other sources of power. The weight of the internal combustion engine has been reduced from 4 lb. per horsepower to less than 2 lb. lb. The fuel consumption has been reduced nearly 50 per cent and weight by 100 per cent. Several methods of economy

exist, however, for more economy. The author, in the course of development, a standard of efficiency will be reached or much beyond our present attainment as our present attainment is beyond the primitive efforts of some ten years ago! With even a small portion of such an improvement, the internal combustion engine will have far outstripped any competitor that now exists to be had.

Speaking of it, I believe that we have not begun to exhaust the possibilities of developing the internal combustion engine for aircraft use. I believe furthermore that development will result from painstaking concentration on the details of design rather than any starting innovation that could spring up overnight. In any case, we have practically the entire engineering addressed at the past as a precedent to prove that we can do it. The kind of a problem effort to perfect any machine. This is not to say the result of the genius of any one man or even group of men but ultimately must collect the best ability of the whole engineering profession.

Crusade of Navy Air Boat Squadrons

The Navy Department has received a report from the Naval Air Station, Hampton Roads, telling of the safe arrival here of the Atlantic Fleet Air Boat Squadrons and giving a summary of the record of the first two squadrons, which arrived December 1918, the squadron, under the command of Commander A. C. Head of the Atlantic Flying Corps, has covered a total flying distance of about 30,000 miles without a serious mishap.

They left Hampton Roads for the Canal Zone by way of Guantanamo on Dec. 18, 1920, arriving at Guantanamo on Dec. 20, 1920, and left for Colón, Panama, on Dec. 21, 1920, and from there for Colón on the 23rd, arriving at Colón the same day. The distance from Guantanamo to Colón is 933 miles, and was made in the flying time of 13 hr. and 5 min.

After passing the Pacific Fleet Air Forces in maneuvers south of the Canal Zone, the squadrons left Colón for the North on Feb. 18, 1921, by way of Gorgona Island, Balboa, Isthmus of Panama, arriving at Guantanamo on March 20, 1921, covering the 1,053 miles in 20 hr. 30 min.

On Apr. 5, after Fleet maneuvers at Guantanamo, the Air Boats left for the North by way of Isla de Flores, Manta, and Montebello City. The squadrons were reorganized during the month of April, 1921, in the Caribbean Sea, and their extensive knowledge of seacraft and seaplane enabled Commanders Head to carry out his schedule without delay, and, when possible, to shorten the distance to take the air for a long flight during a storm in which the tandem, biplane, was unable to go to sea.

Radios apparatus and company equipment were tested and

during this long voyage and the most gratifying results were obtained in keeping formation and navigating even when visibility was limited by fog and rain.

Air Mail Service in the Philippines

The Philippine Islands are soon to have a postal airmail service, according to recent reports from Manila. Regular lines will be established from Manila to Colón and also from Manila to Zamboanga. Colón is the premier city of the Visayas and Zamboanga of the southern part of the Philippines.

Five airmen have just been recruited by the regular government from the United States. The airmen will be operated by Philippine aviation tested by the Philippine National Guard.

From Miami to Washington

With six prominent passengers and a crew of four, the flying boat "Santa Maria", of the Aeromarine West Indies Airways, departed on the Potowmack River at Washington, April 13, after a highly successful flight which began on the morning of April 11 at Miami, Fla. The passengers were all prominent men of Detroit, five of them automobile manufacturers, and the other, Dr. Indus, Congressman of Michigan and Acting Mayor of Miami. The passengers were W. H. Metcalf, President of the D. A. C. The party had previously chartered the "Santa Maria" for a flight from Miami to the island of Nassau and return. The excitement of the members of the party as the result of this first experience in air transportation, prompted them to charter the "Santa Maria" as a speedy and agreeable means of going north.

No attempt was made to establish any record and the trip was made with the idea of comfort and enjoyment for the passengers. The cost was therefore made small and the passengers spent the two nights at hotels en route. The flying time was approximately 17 hours.

The possibilities of commercial flying boat service are almost daily being demonstrated by the P-5-L and HRL-2 machines which were turned over by the Navy to the Aeromarine Co. for distribution in order to encourage commercial flying. A lady New York to Albany service is now being run each day and will be continued when the P-5-L is ready. On Friday, April 15, an Aeromarine-Navy HRL-2 left New York for Hartford with Judge Wm. J. Malone, Chairman, Aviation Committee of the Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, and Horace P. Maxon, President, Hartford Aviation Commission, for the purpose of demonstrating to Hartford and other Connecticut cities the possibilities of a regular New York-Hartford and Connecticut River points service.

The machine carried a letter from Mayor F. Hylan to the Mayor of Hartford, which is reproduced below —

Take pleasure in handing you herewith, on behalf of the City of New York, invitations on the partaking trip of the flying boat "Aeromarine" between our city and the City of Hartford. While our municipalities have been drawn closely together by air and motor, we are now entering an age of faster communication. The flying machine reduces the journey to a minimum. The number of passengers is limited, but the service proves the wisdom of the United States Navy in allotting for commercial service a limited number of Navy Coast Patrol Flying Boats. It is apparent to all patriotic citizens that we cannot hope to have aviation for national defense until civil and commercial aviation is established in this country to the same extent as abroad. The successful conversion of these boats for commercial purposes, and the policy of the Navy Department in permitting the public to purchase them at a fraction of their original cost, may furnish elsewhere the handling that has heretofore retarded public interest in flying. It is my hope that more means will be found to ensure steady and continuous aerial transport between the City of New York and the City of Hartford.

JAMES F. HYLAN,
Mayor

Naval Airships for Commercial Use

Immediately following the arrival of this party, on July 1 of the rapid trip 2000 miles now being contemplated to England, the Navy will begin experiments to determine the feasibility of the use of rigid airships for commercial purposes. Plans now under consideration by the Department include long distance flights by the ZR-2 that will cover practically every section of the country.

Moving boats, which have now proved to be a satisfactory method of connecting large stretches, will be created at Chicago and along the West Coast. The HRL-2 will be utilized in the long stretch between the Atlantic and Pacific coast. Arrangements are now being completed for the HRL-2 to make a trip, shortly after her trans-Atlantic flight, to Chicago, carrying a message which President Harding will be asked to send to the officers of the Chicago Exposition, which will be held during July and August, 1931. Other points between Chicago and the Pacific Coast where boats will be needed will be Omaha and Salt Lake City and possibly others.

It is believed by the Navy Department that the great strides of industry exhibited in this country make ships particularly adaptable as commercial carriers. To definitely establish this, numerous flights across the country will be made by the ZR-2 as long as they do not interfere with the Naval exercises of the ships.

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CALIFORNIA'S MOST COMPLETE SERVICE
MERCURY AVIATION COMPANY
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LARGEST FLYING FIELD IN WEST
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INDIANA
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BOSTON AND SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
EASTERN AIRCRAFT CORP.
348 FIRST ST., BOSTON, MASS.

MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
SECURITY AIRCRAFT CO.
FIELD, HANGARS, SHOPS

NEW JERSEY
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HANGARS, SHOPS, FIELDS
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NEW YORK AERO LIMITED, FLORIDA
GOTHAM BANK BLDG., NEW YORK, N. Y.

NEW YORK
CURTISS AIRDROME
BAZELLIEST FIELD, MINNEOLA, LONG ISLAND
CURTISS AIRPLANE & MOTOR CORPORATION

OHIO
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Repairs, Hangars, Shops and Field 2 miles from Dayton Ohio.
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